

disengage its military forces from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. This was Prime Minister Sharon's incredibly bold and courageous initiative. It will not be easy to implement, given the determined opposition of a minority of Israelis. But anyone who knows Ariel Sharon has little doubt that the disengagement will happen, just as the Prime Minister intends.

The disengagement from Gaza entails not only political risks for Prime Minister Sharon but also security risks for Israel. It is in our national interest to assist Israel to reduce those risks. The United States stood by Israel when it took courageous steps for peace with Egypt and Jordan, and we will continue to stand by Israel as it undertakes risks in order to make progress toward peace with the Palestinians. The United States is also committed to helping Israel deal with the emerging threats of radical regimes and terrorist organizations in the Middle East.

We must not forget, Mr. Speaker, that progress toward peace has come at a great cost. For the past four and half years, innocent civilians have been murdered by terrorists aiming to destroy the state, and Israelis have been killed only because they were Israelis. By supporting Israel in its struggle for peace, we honor the victims' memory and help to promote better future, both for Israelis and Palestinians and the region.

The establishment of the State of Israel has been a great boon not only for those who live there, but it is of great importance for our nation as well. We treasure Israel as our most loyal ally in the Middle East and as the embodiment of democratic values we cherish. It is no wonder that the United States has played a critical role in supporting Israel's security in a bipartisan fashion. It is a record about which we are justifiably proud and a standard to which we will aspire for years to come.

In recognizing Israeli independence, we reiterate our commitment to ensure the safety and security of the State of Israel for the sake of the Israeli people and for the sake of the American people. The historic ties and friendship between our two democratic states have been a source of great pride for both our nations, and we are committed to maintaining and reinforcing them. As the Israeli people continue to draw inspiration in their struggle for peace and security from their friends and supporters in the United States, the Israeli people should know that Israel has no greater friend and no stronger supporter than the people of the United States of America.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 149, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER DOROTHY STANG

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 89) honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Whereas Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Dorothy Stang, moved to the Amazon 22 years ago to help poor farmers build independent futures for their families, and was murdered on Saturday, February 12, 2005, at the age of 73, in Anapu, Para, a section of Brazil's Amazon rain forest;

Whereas, a citizen of Brazil and the United States, Sister Dorothy worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization of the Catholic Church that fights for the rights of rural workers and peasants, and defends land reforms in Brazil;

Whereas her death came less than a week after meeting with the human rights officials of Brazil about threats to local farmers from some loggers and landowners;

Whereas, after receiving several death threats, Sister Dorothy recently commented, "I don't want to flee, nor do I want to abandon the battle of these farmers who live without any protection in the forest. They have the sacrosanct right to aspire to a better life on land where they can live and work with dignity while respecting the environment";

Whereas Sister Dorothy was born in Dayton, Ohio, entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur community in 1948, and professed final vows in 1956;

Whereas, from 1951 to 1966, Sister Dorothy taught elementary classes at St. Victor School in Calumet City, Illinois, St. Alexander School in Villa Park, Illinois, and Most Holy Trinity School in Phoenix, Arizona, and began her ministry in Brazil in 1966, in Coroata in the state of Maranhao;

Whereas, last June, Sister Dorothy was named "Woman of the Year" by the state of Para for her work in the Amazon region, in December 2004, she received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Brazilian Bar Association for her work helping the local rural workers, and earlier this year, she received an "Honorary Citizenship of the State" award from the state of Para; and

Whereas Sister Dorothy lived her life according to the mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame: making known God's goodness and love of the poor through a Gospel way of life, community, and prayer, while continuing a strong educational tradition and taking a stand with the poor people especially women and children, in the most abandoned places, and committing her one and only life to work with others to create justice and peace for all: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress hereby honors the life and work of Sister Dorothy Stang.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and his cosponsors for bringing this important resolution to the floor. I also wish to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and our ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for expediting the consideration of this resolution in our Committee on International Relations.

Sister Dorothy worked in Brazil to directly help the people who are most in need, rural workers and peasants. She showed great personal courage by continuing on in her work with the Pastoral Land Commission despite death threats.

Brazil and the world were shocked when Sister Dorothy was murdered on February 12, 2005. She was 73 years of age. It is fitting and proper that the United States Congress should recognize the extraordinary example that Sister Dorothy set for her countrymen here in the United States and in her adoptive country of Brazil.

Today, we stand together to remember Sister Dorothy's extraordinary life. Perhaps an even more eloquent and lasting testament to Sister Dorothy's memory is the fact that Americans of faith are working every day for their fellow man in the remotest corners of the world. Many are to be found across our own hemisphere. Throughout their good works, they also honor Sister Dorothy's sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain my colleagues will join me in strong support of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for his leadership in commemorating the life and work of Sister Dorothy Stang.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Dorothy Stang stood firmly on the side of the weak and disposed in the Brazilian rainforest for over 40 years. Her willingness to defend the indigenous people ultimately led to her untimely and tragic death.

Dorothy Stang entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur community in 1948, and professed final vows in 1956. In 1966, she began her very important ministry in Brazil.

Sister Dorothy immediately encountered injustices which made her a life-long crusader for the rights of indigenous minorities and a voice for the

voiceless before the powerful Pastoral Land Commission.

In her work, Sister Stang took on powerful land interests, and steadfastly defended small groups of families and their traditional ways of life. Sister Stang taught the local communities ways of sustainable development and peaceful community living.

Because she was a thorn in the side of those powerful interests, Sister Dorothy received numerous death threats, but she always shrugged them off. She did so not carelessly or lightheartedly, but with a deep sense of the importance of her work and the peaceful approach to conflicts she had always promoted.

With the brutal murder of Sister Stang in February, the indigenous communities of the rainforest have lost one of their most powerful voices. Indeed, Brazil has lost one of the most respected human rights leaders.

We call on the Brazilian Government to bring to justice not only the people who pulled the trigger, but also those who devised the evil plot to kill her for sheer financial greed.

Sister Dorothy Stang leaves a huge legacy which puts the burden on the Brazilian and U.S. Governments to protect those communities for whom Sister Stang gave her life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the author of this resolution.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 89, and I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and offer very warm thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and to the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their leadership and support on this resolution which honors the life and the work of Sister Dorothy Stang.

I would also like to acknowledge Sister Dorothy's family, her sister, Marguerite, and her family from Fairfax, Virginia, and her brother, David Stang from Denver, Colorado.

Sister Dorothy was an American Catholic nun with the Order of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She was originally from Ohio, but had moved to Brazil nearly 40 years ago with four other sisters of Notre Dame in response to a request from then-Pope John XXIII who asked religious communities around the world to serve in Latin America.

She worked in earnest to profess the order's mission, to educate and stand with the poor. Sister Dorothy also worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization of the Catholic Church that fights for the rights of rural workers and peasants. Sister Dorothy's selfless way of life brought comfort and hope to an area of the world wrought with corruption and despair. She was committed to social justice, and worked tirelessly to help poor farmers with sustainable development

techniques, minister and teach the men of the village to be faith leaders, and help in the building of houses and school rooms.

Sister Dorothy taught the women of Brazil to sew and to sell clothing to finance the building of a dam to provide electricity to their community. She pioneered 21 community centers. These centers taught agriculture, health care, education, and spirituality.

Although she was a profound leader and was loved by many, her fate did not parallel her life's work. Sister Dorothy was brutally murdered on February 12 of this year after receiving several death threats from loggers and landowners. Knowing of this grave danger, Sister Dorothy wrote, "I do not want to flee, nor do I want to abandon the battle of these farmers who live without any protection in the forest. They have the sacrosanct right to aspire to a better life on land where they can live and work with dignity while respecting the environment."

She then went on to say, "I am grateful to Notre Dame for not asking me to leave. This shows we are aware of the needs of the poor. The Sisters have said they are worried about any safety. It is not my safety, but that of the people which matters."

At the time of her death, Sister Dorothy had just traveled to drop off cloth and food to families whose homes had been burned by ranchers and loggers. She was approached by two gunmen, and knowing her fate, reached into her cloth bag, took out her Bible and began reading the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

Sister Dorothy Stang is a true martyr. She lived and died teaching and fighting for peace and justice among a people who were poor and disenfranchised. She lifted up the oppressed and taught people about their rights as human beings. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the state of Para for her work in the Amazon, and in 2004 she received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Brazilian Bar Association for her work in the region.

Sister Dorothy's dream was to have an area of land set aside by the federal government of Brazil as a federal reserve where the poor families and landless peasants would be safe, where they could farm their land, build their own income-producing businesses, and above all, where they could live in peace and dignity without threats to their lives.

Sister Dorothy reminds us all to be courageous and to work for what we believe in. We must all be champions of our principles and causes, and that our religion is not merely a set of beliefs, but a series of actions. She gave her life to protect the downtrodden and forgotten. While her brutal murder shows the great challenges we face in the pursuit of social justice, her life shows the awesome power one human being has to change the world.

I hope that this simple act of commemoration will not be the end of Sister Stang's story, but the very beginning. That Congress will use this opportunity to demonstrate its concern for inequality and poverty all over the world by making available the resources needed to combat these social ills.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said in a speech at Amherst College, honoring Robert Frost, that "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Today we honor a fearless, selfless defender of peace, a champion in sustainable development, a person affectionately known as "Irma Doroty," and "Angel of the Amazon," a brave martyr, Sister Dorothy Stang.

□ 1630

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 89.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING ROMANIA TO PROVIDE RESTITUTION TO RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 191) urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 191

Whereas the establishment of a Communist government in Romania after World War II proved disastrous for established religious institutions;

Whereas a central element of persecution by the Communist government in Romania was the uncompensated confiscation of real and personal property from religious communities and from leaders of religious communities, and the arrest and persecution of religious leaders;

Whereas 2,140 schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable and civic institutions were illegally confiscated under communism from the four historic Hungarian churches (Roman Catholic, Hungarian Reformed, Evangelical Lutheran, and Unitarian) and actual possession and use of such properties has been denied in all but 30 cases;

Whereas Romania's wartime Fascist government began the process of confiscating Jewish property in September 1940 and its